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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meeting, held in Rome on 21 and 22 October 2002

I. Background

1. At its thirtieth session, the Commission on Population and Development had authorized the Bureau, in preparation for its sessions, to hold intersessional meetings on a yearly basis. In follow-up to that decision, an intersessional meeting of the Bureau was convened in Rome on 21 and 22 October 2002 at the invitation of the Government of Italy and was hosted by the Dipartimento di Scienze Demografiche, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. Previous Bureau meetings had been held in 1996 (Brussels), 1997 (Mexico City), 1998 (Kuala Lumpur), 1999 (New York), 2000 (Nairobi) and 2001 (New York).

2. All members of the Bureau participated in the intersessional meeting. A complete list of participants is given in annex I to the present report. In addition to the participants, an observer from the United Nations Population Fund and, for part of the meetings, two observers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy were present.

3. The Bureau reiterated the importance of the intersessional meetings for planning for future sessions of the Commission and for stimulating interest in and awareness of population and development issues. The meetings also provided an opportunity to organize briefings for government officials, scholars and the press in the host country. In that respect, the host, "La Sapienza", organized a seminar entitled "New Trends and New Problems for the Population of the Twenty-first Century: Challenges for Social, Economic and Educational Systems", held at the Aula Magna of the University on Monday, 21 October 2002, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All Bureau members participated in the seminar, which was opened by a

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representative of the Rector of the University, Professor Giuseppe D'Ascenzo. Presentations made by the members of the Bureau can be accessed on http://w3.uniroma1.it/scidemo/seminario%20ONU-DSD.htm.

4. On the second day the Bureau meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A meeting was arranged between the Bureau members and the office of the Under-Secretary, Margherita Boniver. In her statement, read by the Vice-Director-General, Claudio Bisogniero, the Under-Secretary extended her welcome to the Bureau members and noted that Italy would spare no effort to draw the attention of European Union partners to matters of human rights and humanitarian issues and that that approach would be maintained and enhanced during the Italian presidency of the Union in the second half of 2003.

II. Opening

5. Antonio Golini, Professor in the Department of Demographic Sciences, at "La Sapienza" and Chairman of the Commission on Population and Development, officially opened the meeting. Mr. Golini welcomed the members of the Bureau to the meeting. Joseph Chamie, Director of the Population Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, also made an introductory statement. Mr. Chamie welcomed the participants and thanked Mr. Golini and his staff for the preparations in support of the meeting. Mr. Chamie stressed the importance of the intersessional meetings for the smooth working of the Commission. He then summarized the issues that needed to be discussed by the Bureau and reviewed the background material that had been made available.

III. Deliberations and recommendations

6. Mr. Golini chaired the deliberations of the Bureau. The provisional agenda was discussed at the start of the intersessional meeting and the agenda, as adopted, is presented in annex II to the present report.

7. The items discussed at the intersessional meeting covered the proposed agenda and organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-sixth session in 2003; the format of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission in 2004, including the second quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and other activities that might take place to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action; the modalities of work and the programme of work of the Commission at its thirty-eighth to forty-first sessions, from 2005 to 2008; the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002, held in July 2002, that had relevance for the programme of work of the Commission, including the joint meeting of the bureaux of the Council and its functional commissions; and other related matters.

8. The recommendations of the Bureau on the foregoing items are presented in annex III to the present report. The Bureau reaffirmed the importance of its intersessional meetings in facilitating the work of the Commission.

Annex I

List of participants

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Annex II

Agenda of the intersessional meeting of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Commission on Population and Development:
   (a) Agenda, organization of work and other matters relating to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission in 2003;
   (b) Second quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, scheduled for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission in 2004;
   (c) Modalities of work and programme of work of the Commission in 2005-2009;
   (d) Relevant recently adopted resolution of the Economic and Social Council, including the joint meeting of the bureaux of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions;
   (e) Other matters.
4. Related matters.
5. Conclusions.
6. Closing of the meeting.

Annex III

Conclusions and recommendations of the Bureau

I. Provisional agenda, organization of work and working methods for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

1. The Bureau recommended the organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-sixth session, as shown in appendix I to the present annex.

2. The Bureau recommended that a special discussant be designated to launch the debate on the concise report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, 2003: population, education and development (E/CN.9/2003/2). The Bureau also recommended that the statement by the discussant be provided ahead of time.

3. The Bureau recommended that instead of convening a panel to discuss the special theme, as had been the practice at past sessions, one or two distinguished guest speakers be invited to address the thirty-sixth session. The event should take place at the afternoon meeting on the second day of the session. The Director of the Population Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat was requested to brief delegates ahead of time as to who the guest speaker was going to be and solicit their views on the topic to be discussed.

4. The Bureau recommended that interventions by delegations during the debate on national experiences concentrate on the special theme of the Commission. Oral presentations should be about five minutes in length. Delegations wishing to prepare lengthier statements could make them available in writing.

5. The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission in order to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group should begin its work in the afternoon of the first day of the session of the Commission. The Bureau also recommended that the Population Division of the Secretariat prepare initial drafts of resolutions and decisions that might facilitate its work, including variants for resolutions where there were likely to be diverse viewpoints. The Commission might wish to consider resolutions concerning, among other issues: (a) the special theme of population, education and development; (b) the second quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be undertaken by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session in 2004; (c) additional options for marking the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action; and (d) special themes for the years 2005-2008.

6. The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize a briefing for delegations before the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on the status of documents, organization of work and resolutions and decisions that were likely to be considered by the Commission.

7. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission in order to facilitate preparations of

statements by delegations. The Bureau endorsed the posting of advanced unedited versions of the documents on the Internet.

II. Programme of work for future sessions of the Commission

8. The Bureau took note of Commission decision 2000/1 of 30 March 2000, in which the Commission decided that "Population, education and development" should be the special theme for the Commission at its thirty-sixth session in 2003.

9. Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994 on the report of the International Conference on Population and Development, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995 on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference, the Bureau endorsed the second quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action, to be undertaken by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session in 2004. At its thirty-seventh session, the focus of the Commission should be on the second quinquennial review and appraisal, prepared by the Population Division, with no additional special theme.

10. In addition to the second quinquennial review and appraisal in 2004, the Bureau considered possible options to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Those options were also considered by the Economic and Social Council during its debate in 2001 (see Council resolution 2001/21 of 26 July 2001). Further consultations were needed. However, the Bureau recommended a five-day session of the Commission for its thirty-seventh session that would be open to member and non-member States.

11. The Bureau also noted that no provision had been made in the agenda of the thirty-sixth session for a discussion, among Commission members, about activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action. The Director of the Population Division was requested to hold informal consultations with delegations to obtain a variety of suggestions to be presented to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session. The Bureau recommended that the outcome of those consultations be reported to the Commission.

12. Noting the importance of maintaining interest in population issues, the Bureau invited national population commissions to mark the tenth anniversary by organizing special events that would raise the visibility of population issues with the public and other partners.

13. The Bureau took note that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), subject to availability of resources, would organize at least three technical meetings in 2003: (a) Poverty and Population Dynamics; (b) Information, Communication and Technology for Population and Reproductive Health; and (c) Reproductive Health in the Context of Health Sector Approaches. The observer of UNFPA also informed the Bureau that the regional commissions would be organizing regional population conferences with assistance from UNFPA. The first conference, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, would take place in Bangkok in December 2002.

14. The Bureau also took note that the Italian Government might assist in the organization of a technical meeting on population issues to mark Italy's presidency of the European Union during the second half of 2003.

III. Programme of work of the Bureau

15. The Bureau recommended that it should meet on 30 March 2003, the day prior to the opening of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, to review and discuss preparations for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

16. The Bureau took note of the summary report of its meeting with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council (see appendix II) on 5 April 2002, emphasized the usefulness and the importance of such annual meetings to enhance coordination and information-sharing and recommended that such meetings continue to be held at the time of the annual sessions of the Commission.

17. The Bureau took note of the meeting of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairpersons of the functional commissions of the Council, held in New York on 23 July 2002. Joan Elaine Thomas represented the Chairman of the Commission at the meeting. The Bureau took note of the conclusions of the meeting (see appendix III).

18. Taking note of the consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/2002/73), the Bureau noted the importance of joint meetings for the exchange of views among the functional commissions.

19. The Bureau recommended that the election of the Bureau for the thirty-sixth and future sessions of the Commission take place at the beginning of the sessions. The Bureau requested the Director of the Population Division to conduct informal consultations with member States regarding the composition of the Bureau for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

IV. Programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

20. The Bureau took note of the programme of work of the Population Division and stressed the importance of the Division in continuing to maintain a comprehensive approach to population and development issues. In particular, the Bureau recommended that the Division continue to investigate new and emerging issues in the field of population and development.

21. The Bureau also recommended that the Population Division continue to convene technical meetings to shed light on key population concerns of the international community, including those related to the special themes of the Commission.

22. The Bureau was informed of the upcoming meeting at the current (fifty-seventh) session of the General Assembly (agenda item 92) on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. The Bureau also considered General Assembly resolution 56/211 of 21 December 2001 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/21 on the same matter.

23. The Bureau took note that other functional commissions were continuing with themes for the commissions pending the outcome of the General Assembly deliberations. The Bureau reviewed topics that needed further consideration and recommended the following topics for the years 2005-2008:

- 2005: International migration
- 2006: Population and the family
- 2007: Population and poverty
- 2008: Population and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

24. The Bureau took note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change (A/57/387), which had been submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session under agenda item 53, entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly". The Director of the Population Division informed the members of the Bureau that, in the light of the attention given to international migration as a priority area in the report of the Secretary-General, he had requested, for the 2004-2005 budget, that two new sections (one for mortality and one for migration) be created in the Division to replace the current one, which combined mortality and migration. The members of the Bureau strongly supported the Director in that request.

Appendix I

Provisional organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-sixth session

Date/time	*Agenda Item*
Week of 31 March-4 April 2003	
Monday, 31 March	
Morning	**Item 1. Election of Officers**
	Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	(a) Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meeting (E/CN.9/2003/CRP.1)
	(b) Agenda and organization of work (E/CN.9/2003/1; E/CN.9/2003/L.1)
	Item 3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (special theme: "Population, education and development")
	Report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on population, education and development (E/CN.9/2003/2)
	Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of population programmes focusing on population, education and development (E/CN.9/2003/3)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2003/4)
Afternoon	**Item 3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development** (*continued*)
	Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions
Tuesday, 1 April	
Morning	**Item 4. General debate on national experience in population matters: population, education and development**
	Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions

Date/time	*Agenda Item*	
Afternoon	**Item 4.**	**General debate on national experience in population matters** (*continued*): **panel discussion on population, education and development**
Wednesday, 2 April		
Morning	**Item 4.**	**General debate on national experience in population matters** (*continued*)
		Simultaneous with plenary informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions
Afternoon	**Item 5.**	**Programme implementation and future programme of work of the secretariat in the field of population**
		Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2003/5)
		Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2002 (E/CN.9/2003/6)
		Note by the secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2004-2005 (E/CN.9/2003/7)
		Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions
		Deadline for submission of draft proposals under items 3, 4 and 5
Thursday, 3 April		
Morning	**Item 6.**	**Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission**
		Note by the secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2003/L.2)
		Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions
Afternoon		Informal consultations
Friday, 4 April		
Morning and afternoon	**Item 7.**	**Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-sixth session**

Appendix II

Summary report on the joint meeting of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development, held in New York on 5 April 2002

1. The meeting was chaired by Gert Rosenthal (Guatemala). Also in attendance were representatives from Bahrain, Croatia, Finland and South Africa representing the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council. The Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development was represented by the Chairman of the Commission, Antonio Golini (Italy), and Vice-Chairmen Richard Turkson (Ghana), Joan Thomas (Jamaica), Makoto Atoh (Japan) and Gedininas Serksnys (Lithuania).

2. Ambassador Rosenthal opened the meeting and introduced the members of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council. He noted that the meeting was part of a series of meetings between the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of the functional commissions, which afforded an opportunity to exchange views and to help the Council provide guidance to its subsidiary bodies. He invited the Chairman of the Commission to introduce the members of the Bureau of the Commission and to brief the participants about the work undertaken by the Commission during its thirty-fifth session, as it related to the theme of the high-level segment of the 2002 session of the Council, "The contribution of human resources development, including the areas of health and education, to the process of development".

3. The Chairman of the Commission, after introducing the members of the Bureau of the Commission, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to exchange views with the Bureau of the Council. He supported the statement of the President of the Council to the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-fifth session. He described briefly the main issues discussed during the current session of the Commission, which included monitoring of the world population, population programmes and other related issues in connection with the follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Commission had focused attention on reproductive rights and reproductive health with special reference to HIV/AIDS. He acknowledged the excellent documentation prepared by the Population Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat for the current session of the Commission and appreciated their efforts in that regard.

4. In connection with the next review of the International Conference on Population and Development scheduled for 2004, he said that some members would like to limit the review to the technical level only and would not like to send too strong a message to Governments, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general. However, he was of the view that, by the terms of reference of the Commission, it had a duty to provide advice on all population-related issues in an integrated manner and emphasized the need for a holistic approach on population problems. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council would provide strong support to the Commission in its efforts to have a wider review of the Conference in 2004.

5. Ambassador Rosenthal thanked the Chairman of the Commission for his elaborate statement and said that the work of the Commission was very relevant to the theme of the Economic and Social Council in 2002. He said that most of the

issues raised in the meeting were linked and Council members had to find a way to integrate them in the work of the United Nations and its agencies.

6. The representative of Finland inquired as to the mandate of the Commission regarding the 2004 review of the International Conference on Population and Development and whether it was limited to within their regular programme of work or would take the shape of a wider follow-up to the recommendations of the Conference. In responding to the question, the Chairman of the Commission said that a resolution was under consideration in the Commission, but so far there was no agreement. The Cairo Plan of Action had been adopted for the next 20 years and by the 2004 review it would be only half way through. In his opinion, the Commission should have an open-ended longer session for a wider review.

7. The representative of South Africa inquired about the role of the Commission with regard to the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg later in 2002. The meeting was informed by a representative of the Population Division that a report prepared for the theme of environment, population and development had been circulated widely, that the Commission intended to participate actively in the preparatory process for the Summit and that full support would be extended for the success of the Johannesburg conference.

8. In response to a question from the representative of Bahrain regarding the cooperation between the Commission on Population and Development and other functional commissions, it was mentioned that commission secretariats located in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs coordinated closely on issues of common concern. A report prepared on the theme of population, gender and development had been circulated to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development. The Commission was cooperating closely with the Statistical Commission on the multidimensional issue of migration, which was of special interest to the Commission on Human Rights as well.

9. The representative of Croatia inquired as to the contribution the Commission intended to make towards the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 2002. A representative of the Population Division responded that the Commission was involved in various aspects of population-related issues, including ageing population, specific women's issues, population decline in certain regions and its effects on the labour force and migration, and HIV/AIDS. The focus in 2002 had been on health and in 2003 it would be on education. The Commission had been asked to produce more analytical reports on highly technical and specific issues, i.e. HIV/AIDS, for which high-level technical expertise was required. There was a need to generate high quality technical data from available national sources to produce not only quality reports but also accurate future projections. In that connection, continuous support for the non-political technical nature of the work of the Commission was essential.

10. The Chairman noted that the functional commissions were technical bodies whose decisions fed into the work of the Economic and Social Council. The secretariats of the functional commissions cooperated and coordinated with one another, but there was no comparable mechanism at the intergovernmental level. Some of the commissions seemed to work somewhat in isolation from one another. He would like to see functional commissions having more direct input into the work of the Council. In that regard, the issue of the chairmen of the functional commissions having a yearly meeting was briefly discussed. The proposal was considered to be a good idea in order to harmonize the work of the functional commissions and was enthusiastically supported.

Appendix III

Summary report on the meeting of the Chairpersons of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York on 23 July 2002

1. The meeting of the Chairpersons of the functional commissions with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, which took place for the first time, was recognized as an important forum for coordination and cooperation among the functional commissions as well as with the Council. It provided an opportunity to share information and to exchange views in an open and frank dialogue.

2. There was consensus that cooperation and collaboration between the functional commissions as well as with the Council should be enhanced and deepened in order to establish further linkages among the commissions and to avoid overlap and duplication in their work. The preparation of joint reports was felt to be valuable. The secretariats of the respective commissions should further strengthen their cooperation in the preparation of those reports.

3. It was agreed that the use of the Internet in the work of the commissions was valuable, as it enabled the commissions to have a first-hand look at the work being carried out by others. The use of information and communication technology in consultations among commissions and their secretariats could lead to enhanced cooperation. It would also be useful to publish reports on the Web, as a tool of information exchange and to reach a wider audience.

4. The participants also discussed how to coordinate the multi-year programmes of work of the functional commissions. While not all of the functional commissions had implemented multi-year programmes of work, they had special themes on which coordination could be enhanced. It was important to improve the feedback of each commission's work through the use of their programmes of work and special themes.

5. It was also agreed that gender mainstreaming as a truly cross-cutting issue should be integrated into the work of all commissions. Gender perspectives could be further incorporated in the work of the functional commissions.

6. The follow-up to the Millennium Summit and other United Nations conferences provided a key opportunity to enhance a holistic, coordinated and integrated approach. The commissions agreed that a higher profile could be gained through the holding of special events for the follow-up of conferences. The Economic and Social Council could focus on cross-cutting themes and on coordination of the United Nations system. The General Assembly would provide policy guidance.

7. It was felt that, despite the heavy workload of the commissions, efforts could be made by the commissions to contribute to the following year's high-level and coordination segment themes of the Council.

8. The participants also discussed how to improve the working methods of the functional commissions, including good practices that increased efficiency and effectiveness. In that context, it was mentioned, for example, that it might be helpful if the bureaux and the chairpersons of the commissions were elected at the end of a

session to ensure better preparations of their work and encourage continuity in the composition of the bureaux, while fully respecting the principle of rotation.

9. All commissions acknowledged the importance of the participation of non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the commissions' work. Their participation should be further encouraged.

10. It was felt that the format of the meeting of all chairpersons of the functional commissions was appropriate, although because of the shortage of time experienced at the meeting on 23 July 2002, future meetings should be planned for the whole morning, followed by an afternoon panel discussion. It would be helpful if the newly elected chairpersons were present at future chairpersons' meetings.